
2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Demographics

The City of Morgan Hill is a diverse and growing community. The 2000 population is estimated at 32,000. Morgan Hill's 2020 population is projected to reach 46,600. Historically, Morgan Hill's population has grown faster than the County average.

*Table 2.1
Population Trends*

	Morgan Hill	Santa Clara County
1990	23,928	1,497,577
1995	26,924	1,594,818
1998	30,766	1,689,908
Average Annual Change	3.58%	1.61%

Source: City of Morgan Hill Background and Existing Conditions Report, February 1999.

Age Distribution

Age distribution can influence provision of recreation facilities and services. For example, a population with a large percentage of school-age children may require an emphasis on after-school programs, while a large senior population would imply the need for a senior center and senior activities. In 1990, nearly 1/3 of Morgan Hill's population was 19 or younger, as shown in the attached table.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.2
1990 Age Distribution

Age Group	Morgan Hill		Santa Clara County	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
Under 5	1,949	8.1%	111,821	7.5%
5 to 9	2,064	8.6%	102,044	6.8%
10 to 14	1,914	8.0%	90,327	6.0%
15 to 19	1,970	8.2%	100,386	6.7%
20 to 24	1,485	6.2%	125,178	8.4%
25 to 29	1,891	7.9%	159,611	10.7%
30 to 34	2,168	9.1%	157,272	10.5%
35 to 39	2,077	8.7%	131,502	8.8%
40 to 44	2,258	9.7%	113,192	7.6%
45 to 49	1,753	7.3%	91,155	6.1%
50 to 54	1,125	4.7%	72,059	4.8%
55 to 59	811	3.4%	60,367	4.0%
60 to 64	635	2.7%	52,345	3.5%
65 to 69	595	2.5%	46,377	3.1%
70 to 74	444	1.9%	32,766	2.2%
75 to 79	360	1.5%	23,737	1.6%
80 to 84	238	1.0%	15,274	1.0%
85 and over	191	0.8%	12,167	0.8%
TOTAL	23,928	100%	1,497,580	100%

Source: City of Morgan Hill Background and Existing Conditions Report February 1999.

Ethnic Composition

State surveys do not show a significant difference in recreation preferences by ethnic group. However, populations with diverse ethnic backgrounds may require multiple approaches to providing recreational services, such as bilingual notices and registration information. According to the General Plan Update *Background and Existing Conditions Report* (February 1999):

“Morgan Hill is composed of a significantly higher percentage of residents who identified themselves as white than Santa Clara County or California. Morgan Hill had a similar proportion of residents identifying themselves with a Hispanic origin as both the County and the State. The Census’ definition of Hispanic origin can include persons of any ethnicity who also have Hispanic heredity.”

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.3
1990 Ethnic Composition

Ethnic Group	Morgan Hill		Santa Clara County	
	Population	% of Total	Population	% of Total
White	19,686	83.0%	1,032,190	68.9%
Black	383	1.6%	56,211	3.8%
American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut	178	0.7%	9,269	0.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,271	5.3%	261,466	17.5%
Other	2,228	9.3%	138,441	9.2%
TOTAL	23,928	100.0%	1,497,577	100.0%
Hispanic Origin	5,594	23.4%	314,564	21.0%

Source: City of Morgan Hill Background and Existing Conditions Report February 1999.

Park Acreage Standards

The City currently does not have a park acreage per thousand population standard stated in its General Plan. Consistent with State law, however, the City's park development impact fee is based on a standard of 3 acres per thousand population. Based on current park acreage, (see the Summary of Findings and Recommendations chapter for how the acreage is calculated toward this standard) the City has achieved 2.7 acres of parkland per thousand population. The following table indicates how Morgan Hill compares with other communities in setting and achieving a park acreage per thousand population standard.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.4

City Parks and Special Use Facilities

The City of Morgan Hill currently owns about 66 acres of public parkland. The two largest parks are Community Park (about 24 acres) and Galvan Park (8 acres). The Paradise Park and adjacent trail areas total about 15 acres. Other neighborhood parks include Diana Park, Oak Creek Park, and the recently completed Nordstrom Park adjacent to Nordstrom School. Remaining park acreage is divided among several mini-parks that range in size from .1 acre to 1.3 acres. While some City parks are maintained through funding from the City's General Fund, other City parks are located in a "Landscape and Lighting" maintenance district (LLD) with maintenance paid for through an assessment on property within the district. The following table summarizes the City's park acreage and facilities, and also indicates which parks are maintained through LLD funding.

In addition to parks, the City owns, or is in the process of designing, special use facilities for recreational purposes. The Friendly Inn, located at Galvan Park, serves as the City's senior center and is also the home of the Mount Madonna YMCA. Senior programs, including a daily lunch program during the week, are operated by the YMCA.

A temporary skate park with portable skating challenge events opened in December.

A new Community and Cultural Center is also in design phase. This Center will include a large multi-purpose room with kitchen, classrooms, an amphitheater, and community theater. It will also have classrooms for Gavilan College. The Community and Cultural Center will be located at Dunne and Monterey Streets.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.5
City Owned Parks

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.5
City Owned Parks (continued)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.5
City Owned Parks (continued)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Homeowners Association Parks

In addition to the City-owned parks, several parks are owned and maintained by Homeowners Associations (HOA's). While some of these parks appear to be neighborhood parks, they are actually private parks for the use of association members only. Many have been fenced to restrict public use. The following table summarizes HOA Parks found in the City.

Table 2.6
Homeowners Association Park Inventory

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.6
Homeowners Association Park Inventory (continued)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.6
Homeowners Association Park Inventory (continued)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Table 2.6
Homeowners Association Park Inventory (continued)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Schools

Recreational facilities at local schools are heavily used by the community. Many sports leagues and teams use Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) facilities after school hours and on weekends. MHUSD facilities are shown in the following table.

Table 2.7
Morgan Hill Unified School District Inventory

EXISTING CONDITIONS

County and State Parks

Morgan Hill residents are fortunate to live close to thousands of acres of publicly owned parkland that is managed by the County and the State. This includes Silveira Park at the southern end of the City, the Coyote Creek park chain to the north (these are owned by Santa Clara County) and the 81,000-acre Henry Coe State Park to the east. An inventory of County and State parks in the vicinity of Morgan Hill is included in the following table.

Table 2.8
County and State Parks in the Vicinity of Morgan Hill

Private Recreation Facilities

Private recreation facilities are also available to Morgan Hill residents. These include private gyms, dance studios, and other facilities. A list of recreation programs offered at private facilities is included in Appendix 3.

The soccer complex currently located in Morgan Hill is also a private facility leased by the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA). While the facility is used occasionally by local soccer teams, it is primarily a regional tournament venue for Northern California CYSA teams, and as such, is of regional significance.

Recreation Programs

The City eliminated its recreation program in 1991 due to severe budget cuts. During this time, several non-profit recreation providers “filled the gap” of providing recreation services to the community. These include the YMCA, MACSA, sports leagues, clubs and other groups. Additional programs are provided by private businesses. As a result, a number of recreation programs are currently available to residents. A questionnaire was sent to these organizations to ascertain the types of recreation programs that are currently available. The results of this questionnaire are compiled in Appendix 3.

In 1998, with a healthier budget outlook, the Recreation Division, and a Parks and Recreation Commission, were reinstated. The Recreation Division began offering its first recreation programs in Spring 2000. One of the major issues to be addressed in the Master Plan is to determine the role of the City in providing its own recreation programs, as well as opportunities for enhanced partnerships with other recreation providers.

An analysis of existing conditions and projections for future need are provided in the “Summary of Findings and Recommendations” chapter.